TIMES-VIRGINIAN

In The Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia
ESTABLISHED 1892

Calvin H. Robinson — — Editor and Publisher

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Free Press Spreads Light on Darkness of Ignorance

"Your newspaper lights the way of freedom." That is the theme which has been chosen for the 1951 observance of National Newspaper Week.

The choice is a fine one, for the slogan has far-reaching implications.

First of all, it suggests that where there is no light there is darkness. In this case the darkness is it ac-ancy, "a night," someone has said, "without moon or stars."

The National Newspaper Week theme presumes the right to pierce that darkness with the light of information and it presumes at the same time the right to know. If there is a right to know, there must be the right to tell.

The men who made this nation considered the right to tell so important that they wrote it into the No. 1 Amendment to our Federal Constitution: "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging freedom of speech and freedom of the press."

But the right to tell is more than a privilege, it is a duty.

Elijah Lovejoy, abolitionist editor at Alton, Ill., believed in his right to carry the lamp of the free press and he knew his duty to light it and keep it burning. Three times mobs destroyed his printing press. While he was protecting his fourth press, Lovejoy was shot to death.

Don Mellett, the Canton, Ohio, publisher, kept the sunlight of publicity focused on the racketeers in his community until they ambushed him and shot him at his own doorstep.

Racketeers, international or small-time, know the power of the press. That is why they must control that power, why they must black out the light of public information if they are to attain and maintain a grip on the people.

That is why half the population of the world is under some form of censorship today.

That is why Gen. George C. Marshall said, "Americans should keep constantly in mind that no people have lost their liberties so long as the press remained free."

That is why in the interest of world understanding and hence in the interest of peace—our nation seeks actively to spread throughout the world the freedom of the people to learn the truth.

A free press—a free people.

"Your newspaper lights the way of freedom."

The vital truth of that message is the one thing National Newspaper Week has to sell.

—Selected.

Are Newspapers Too Bulky?

Not many newspaper publishers will agree with Senator Ellender's assertion that newspapers in this country are too big. The Louisiana Senator cited the New York Times as an example. He could have cited dozens of others, such as the Cleveland Plain Dealer, which on Sunday publishes 250 pages.

Senator Ellender, in our opinion, is not too far off base. The metropolitan newspapers of the United States have reached such bulky proportions that they are not only difficult to read but inevitably must be filled with much junk, which adds little to the sum total of human knowledge.

At the other extreme are the newspapers in England which are limited by law to six pages. It is obviously impossible to present a reasonable outline of national, local and foreign news in such limited space. As a result, the British public has become little more than headline readers, or at most a few paragraphs of type on the day's most important stories. But the British readers — and many publishers — seem reasonably content with the abbreviated news sketch.

Our guess is that the future will see a limited expansion in the size of British newspapers and a limited curtailment in the size of American newspapers. Should this occur, it might well result in making the newspapers of both countries more readable.

—From The Winchester Star.

The editorial above, from one of Virginia's better papers, leads us to remark that the best advertising medium in the world is the weekly newspaper with its closely-read pages at the point of sale. The big metropolitan Sunday paper offers small chance to the two column by three inch ad stuck away on page 187. But you cannot hide an ad in the average home-town weekly paper. Nor a news story, either. In the past few decades the weekly paper has doubled in size, but it remains closely read and is today the most attractive package in the nation to those who want to speak to the approximate fifty per cent of Americans living in rural areas or small towns. This grass roots of the nation is the backbone of our most precious traditions.

What Competition Does

The Wall Street Journal recently carried a news story from Washington written by staff correspondent W. C. Bryant. Here is how it began: "The government's inflation fighters are showing some embarrassment, because there's so little inflation to fight.

"They're even discussing, in quiet little sessions, whether it would be well to stop pretending to control a host of prices that are way below Federal ceilings. In other words, except a lot of things -- clothing, house furnishings, many foods and the usual run of 'five & dime' notions -- from price control."

It looks as if the workings of the competitive economic system, which the higher planners seem to consider obsolete, is making life rather tough for the control officials. The reason many items are selling for prices under the legal ceiling is simple enough. Manufacturers and merchants are always beating the bushes for business. And to get business, they have to sell at the lowest price possible. So, under such circumstances, a ceiling doesn't necessarily mean a thing.

This is particularly evident at the retail level, where all kinds of stores, from the biggest national chain to the newest one-man shop, are wooing the price-conscious consumer with every inducement they can think of. Nobody can long get the ceiling price for an article if someone down the street is selling it for less. Retail prices have consistently lagged behind wholesale prices. That's what competition does.

Old Belt Markets Take A Beating

(From Brookneal Union Star)

Old Belt tobacco markets, especially the smaller markets, took a beating the first week of the 1951 selling season, when buyers for some of the tobacco companies were held on the southern markets because of a late crop and heavy late selling on the lower belts, and Old Belt markets opened without those buyers.

True, they are on the local markets now, but that first week hurt. Many Virginia growers, knowing the situation, hauled their early loads of tobacco to Carolina markets. Many others followed the example of their neighbors. Only a few of the very largest Old Belt markets had some of those buyers, and they didn't have all of them.

There is a certain air of interest and romance in the auction system of selling tobacco, kept alive by the keen competition of the buying companies. We would regret to see this example of the free enterprise system pass away. But there have been recent predictions that the auction system will pass; that the time will come when farmers will take their tobacco to a central pool where government graders will put a grade on it, the farmer will be handed a check for the established price on that grade, and he will go on his way without waiting for an auction sale to be held.

This would appear to be another step toward socialism, but there are already many people who advocate this change in the system of marketing tobacco.

One thing is for sure—the attitude on the part of some of the buying companies as was evidenced the first week of the Old Belt opening will hasten that day. It was a blow to many Old Belt markets, and to the free enterprise system. This newspaper urges Old Belt warehousemen to exert every ounce of their influence with the companies to prevent a recurrence of the situation.

MEN OF STRENGTH HAVE HELD THE TORCH OF FREE PRESS HIGH

For more years than man can accurately record, strong men have freely spoken their minds.

And from the day of the first newspaper, strong editors have lighted the way of freedom. Where the newspapers have failed to remain free, so too have nations and individuals. Great men have recognized that fact with these words:

* * *

Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press and that cannot be limited without being lost.

—Thomas Jefferson.

* * *

Three hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets. —Napoleon.

* * *

Newspapers are the schoolmasters of the common people. That endless book, the newspaper, is our national glory.

—Henry Ward Beecher.

* * *

And were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. —Thomas Jefferson.

* * *

Our Republic and its press will rise or fall together.

—Joseph Pulitzer.

* * *

All I know is what I read in the newspapers. —Will Rogers.

* * *

A free press stands as one of the great interpreters between the government and the people. To allow it to be fettered is to fetter ourselves. —Justice George Sutherland.

* * *

When the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe.

—Thomas Jefferson.

Brief Paragraphs About Newspapers

The Associated Press first used typewriters in 1885.

William Penn fostered freedom of the press in Philadelphia.

The direct interview story was first used by Horace Greeley.

The first printing press was imported into this country in 1639.

Newspapers selling for a penny apiece originated in England.

The first daily in the United States appeared in Philadelphia in 1784.

Telegraphic news was a regular part of city news service by 1860.

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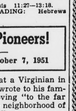
Wanted: Pioneers!

Lesson for October 7, 1951

IT IS on record that a Virginian in the 18th century wrote to his family that he was moving "to the far west," meaning the neighborhood of what is now Bull Run, Va., not far from Washington, D. C. Well, the "far west" moved and moved, till it reached the Pacific. Beyond that ocean is the Orient, crowded past belief. Where now can the pioneer go? For pioneering is always in the blood of man. Not in *every one's*, to be sure; there always are contented stay-behinds; but also there always are the restless souls, not content with what has been or is. How shall pioneering instincts have their way when all frontiers are closed?


Dr. Foreman

* * *

Un-Traveling Pioneers

THE traveling pioneer has about had his day; what we now need is the un-traveling pioneer.

Such explorers are of various sorts. One is the mental pioneer, moving to new frontiers of the mind. These can be found breaking out new trails in various directions.

In science there are the men whose minds produced X-rays and plastics, the men and women who did the brainwork that lay behind the splitting of the atom; in government the men on the judge's bench, in lawyers' offices or in professors' chairs, who have been and are still thinking out the undiscovered meanings of democracy; in education the men and women who have pioneered in new ways of teaching, such as Dr. Laubach, great scholar and missionary, who has led the way in teaching the "silent billion" to read and write; these are all pioneers of the mind. God send us more!

* * *

Moral Pioneers

WE need also pioneers of the moral life. "Time," says a line in a poem by J. R. Lowell which has made its way into most hymn books, "makes ancient good uncouth."

For instance: once upon a time, practically all Christian people supposed that slavery was not only a good thing, but that God had commanded it for all time. Whitfield, a famous evangelist, said that what America needed for its development was more slaves imported from Africa, and more home-brewing of liquor. Today this sounds so ridiculous that it is hard to believe that a Christian could have said it.

Time has made ancient good uncouth. But time alone will not do this. There must always be some moral pioneer, some one who will run the risk of being called "bad" by going out in front of popular opinion.

Between Whitfield's time and ours there have been moral pioneers, notably a Quaker named John Woolman on whose mind and heart God laid the message: Slavery is a wrong.

* * *

Pioneers of God

WE need also spiritual pioneers, persons who will move forward to new discoveries of God. For most persons, God is still an "undiscovered country"; and no man can discover God for another, though he may testify to his own discoveries. So in the realm of the spirit each must be his own pioneer; and some men and women, even from sickbeds, unable to walk as far as the door, have made great discoveries of God.

The man who is honored as a saint by three religions—Christianity, Judaism and Mohammedanism—Abraham, is sometimes known for the wrong thing. He may be thought of as a traveling pioneer because he moved several hundred miles during his lifetime. But he was not a pioneer in the "old American" meaning of that word, for the Canaan to which he went was no unsettled wilderness but a well-populated civilized country, and he never owned the land he lived on.

Abraham's pioneering was in the realm of the spirit. We know from Joshua 24:2 that even Abraham's father was an idolater; Abraham moved out from the pagan religion of his father and his people, to the discovery of the One True God. No more important journey was ever taken.

The traveling of Abraham's feet was of little importance by comparison. It was the traveling of Abraham's spirit that has most blessed us all.

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Pamplin

Pamplin, Oct. 2.- Billy Neal and [illegible] of Portsmouth were the week-end visitors in the home of [illegible] M. Southall and Mrs. H. [illegible] Robinson.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Ligon spent [illegible] in Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Parks Hackney [illegible] daughter, Martha Gayle spent several days last week in N. C.

Recent visitors in the home of [illegible] C. Rosser were Mrs. Annie [illegible] and Mrs. Colyer Parks, of [illegible]burg; Mr. and Mrs. George [illegible] and family, of Catlettsburg, [illegible].

Mrs. F. H. Lukin went to Lynchburg Monday to visit her husband, who is a patient in the Baptist Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harris and Mrs. Late Franklin spent Saturday in Richmond.

Mrs. S. Topping, of Appomattox spent several days last week in the home of Mrs. C. C. Rosser.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Caldwell, of Lynchburg and Mrs. Edith Trower, of Norfolk were week-end visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Williams and Miss Flora Williams.

Mrs. S. J. Evans and Mrs. Jennie Johnson, of Appomattox were week-end visitors in the home of Mrs. C. C. Rosser.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Pankey and son were week-end visitors of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Pankey.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Nickels and daughter, Brenda; Mrs. L. D. Wilkes, of Bedford were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Goode.

Mrs. Carl Evans, of Roanoke, spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. C. C. Rosser.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Davis and daughter, Kathy spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne, of Phenix.

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Pamplin RFD 1

Pamplin, R. F. D. One, Oct. 2.- Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Arrington and son, Clinton visited Mr. and Mrs. Howard Seymore, of Ashland, last week.

Mrs. E. C. Baldwin and family left Sunday for Danburg, Wisc. for a stay with relatives there.

Kenneth and Shirley Arrington spent several days last week with their sister, Mrs. Letcher Simpson, of near Farmville.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Baldwin have returned from a recent trip to Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Annie Meadows returned home Monday from a visit with relatives in Richmond and Washington.

Richwood

Richwood, Oct. 2.- "There are souls in this world which have the gift of finding joy everywhere, and of leaving it behind wherever they go." —Quoted.

Divine services at Central Baptist Church at 11 A. M. Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Woodall, of Lynchburg were the guests Sunday evening of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Clapp and daughter, of Richmond were the week-end guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Harvey.

Julian Reed and John Moore were in Fredericksburg Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Pugh visited with Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Marsh at Rocks Sunday afternoon.

Miss Val Brannan was the dinner guest Sunday of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Woolridge.

Rev. and Mrs. C. G. Carter were the overnight guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Harvey and daughter, Joan.

Rocks

Rocks, Oct. 1.- We had a big frost here over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach and Mrs. E. S. Roach spent awhile last Tuesday with Mrs. D. R. Inge.

Quite a few parents and children attended the Five County Fair at Farmville last week.

Rodney Roach was on his vacation last week.

Mrs. Toby Inge and Audrey Dale and Miss Odelle Ranson went to Danville one Saturday recently.

Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Marsh went to Lynchburg Tuesday. Mrs. Marsh went to see a doctor there again.

Stanley Roach was sick a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Roach, of Lynchburg and Mr. and Mrs. Claiborne Inge, of Appomattox were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Ranson Wednesday.

Cassie Baldwin spent a few days last week with Mrs. E. S. Roach.

Friends are sorry to hear that Dr. F. H. Lukin, of Pamplin had an operation last week. He is in the Virginia Baptist Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

A. P. Martin, of Lynchburg, and friends conducted prayer meeting at Rocks Wednesday night.

Mrs. Walter Ranson spent Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. E. S. and R. E. Roach.

Quite a large crowd from Rocks attended the homecoming at Central Church Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ranson and children and Wiley Ranson went to Amherst Sunday afternoon to see Mr. and Mrs. Emory Ranson.

Friends are sorry to hear that Emory Ranson will enter a hospital in Richmond this week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Anderson received a notice last week that their grandson, Clarence Edward Almond was married in West Virginia on September 22nd.

Letcher Bryant was helping Robert Roach shuck corn a few days last week.

Stonewall

Stonewall, Oct. 2.- It seems that summer has come back since we had some jack frost. It's real nice weather.

Mr. and Mrs. George Jennings have as their guest her mother, Mrs. Thompson, of Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burnette and children and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ray Burnette, of Lynchburg were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. Rufus Burnette.

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Turnes visited their children, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Jobe and their families at Gladstone last Sunday.

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